Minimum support price for tobacco

493. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the minimum support price of tobacco as demanded by farmers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what are Government's views thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommends the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for tobacco every year, after taking into account the views of the tobacco farmers and the Central Tobacco Research Institute. It is in the process of formulating its recommendations on MSP for the khariff season 2002-2003.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, does not arise.

Representation on FDI in retail trade

494. SHRI. AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Trade Associations, opposing Government's proposal to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail trade;

(b) if so, the grounds adduced by them against the proposal and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any Committee was constituted to go into the question of permitting FDI in retail trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made by it indicating Government decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from some Trade Associations against allowing Foreign Direct Investment in retail trade, stating it will have an adverse impact on local retail trade industry. As per the extant policy, FDI is not permitted in the retail sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Closure of industrial units

495. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:
PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial units both in Public and Private Sectors closed down during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of employees who lost their employment due to closure of these industrial units; unit-wise; and

(c) the details of the measures taken to rehabilitate/compensate the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Ministry of Labour collects information on industrial closure in respect of units covered by Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Sector-wise information on number of closures and workers affected as a result of these closures during the last three years is given in the Statement *(See* below*)*.

(c) In case of Public Sector Units, compensation to rationalised workers is given under Voluntary Retirement Scheme(VRS)/Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) as per guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE). A Scheme of retraining/rehabilitation of employees availing of VRS is also being implemented by DPE.

Statement

Sector-wise number of units closed and workers affected therein during 1998-2001

Year	Public Sector		Co-operative Sector		Joint Sector		Private Sector		TOTAL	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
1998	6	1238	3	1921	0	0	166	10227	175	13386
1999(P)	1	21	1	117	0	0	157	15569	159	15707
2000(P)	2	333	1	78	0	0	135	11493	138	11904
2001(P)	3	141	1	79	0	0	88	4065	92	4285

A - Number of units
B - Workers affected
(P) - Provisional

Source: Labour Bureau, Simla